POL 27 ARAB-ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

XR DEF 12 US

CONFIDENTIAL

Action: NEA-7

Info: 55-25 GPM-3 L-1 EUR-8 IO-3 AF-6 OPR-2 INR-7 RSR-1

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.NVZCZCGMA641
P RUEHC RUEHDT
DE RUGMVL 0892 1661140
ZNY CCCCC
P 151130Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV
TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUEPNAA/CNO
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUEKDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPBK/CINCEUR/USEUCOM
RUTPRN/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPBW/USAFE
RUFPAG/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
BT

1967 JUN 15 AM 8 15

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DEFENSE DEPT. 6-15-67

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0892 JUN 67.
REF DAO TEL AVIV 0886 JUN 67. SUBJECT LIBERTY INCIDENT.

PAGE 2 RUGMVL 0892 C O N F I D E N T I A L
1. COMMODORE SCHLOMO ERELL, COMMANDER IN CHIEF IDF NAVY, ASKED ALUSNA TO CALL UPON HIM EARLY EVENING 14 JUNE. COMMODORE PRESENTED APOLOGIES AND EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET IN REGARD LIBERTY INCIDENT TO THE U.S. NAVY ON BEHALF OF ISRAELI NAVY AND SAID HE WAS PREPARING LETTER TO CNO USN. HE SAID INCIDENT WAS GREAT MISTAKE: THAT IDF NAVY PERSONNEL INVOLVED FELT QUOTE TERRIBLE UNQUOTE AND THAT THE INCIDENT IN FACT SPOILED ALL FEELING OF VICTORY FOR IDF NAVY IN RECENT HOSTILITIES.
2. ERELL STATED HE DID NOT WANT TO COMMENT ON ELEMENTS OF INCIDENT UNTIL THE ISRAELI COURT OF ENQUIRY HAD RENDERED FINDINGS. WHEN ASKED IF THOSE FINDINGS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES THE COMMODORE SAID HE PRESUMED THEY WOULD BE.
3. AS IN EVERY CASE WHEN ISRAELI OFFICERS MENTIONS THE INCIDENT COMMODORE ERELL REMARKED ON HOW CLOSE LIBERTY WAS TO SHORE LINE. ALUSNA REPLIED THAT LIBERTY WAS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.
4. COMMENT A. COMMODORE ERELL WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY DISCOMFORTED BY NEED FOR AND FACT OF MEETING WITH ALUSNA WHICH MIGHT BE PART OF EXPLANATION WHY THERE WAS SO LONG A DELAY BETWEEN EVENT AND FIRST OFFICIAL IDF NAVY PRESENTATION OF APOLOGIES.
B. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMED IN OTHER CHANNELS

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CRC/MR
REVIEWED BY NLJ 00-84 DATE 04/28/00
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE ____ REASON(S) ____
ATS WITH ____ EXPOSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐

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PAGE 3 RUQMVL 0892 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THAT ISRAEL COURT OF ENQUIRY WILL PROBABLY COMPLETE ITS ACTIONS ON 16 JUNE.
5. COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. GP-3.

PASSED S/S-O 6/15/67; 8:27 AM.

DECLASSIFIED